

Your History Day Roadmap



Step 1: Choose a Topic

- Choose something that interests you!
- You must relate your topic to the Annual Theme.

Step 2: Research - Historians are like detectives who discover the past

- Start by finding at least 5 secondary sources. Read up on your topic using good secondary sources before you start searching for primary sources. Use credible sources that are created by experts. Evaluate every website you use.
- Find at least 15 primary sources on your topic. For some topics you can find hundreds of primary sources, so find as many as you can.
- Use a variety of sources. Historians don't just rely on the internet. They use actual books and articles, interviews, historic newspapers and magazines, letters, diaries, photos, maps, paintings, video clips, advertising, propaganda, government documents, etc.
- Conduct balanced research. Investigate various points of view, understand all sides of an issue, explore conflicts and debates.
- Dig deeper! Interview someone who was there. Find more sources.
- Track your sources as you go.

Step 3: Analyze and Synthesize

- Analyze your sources and think about what the sources show.
- Consider the ways your topic relates to the theme.
- Summarize the historical context and background. What events led up to your topic? How does your topic relate to the political, social, cultural circumstances of the time?
- Identify significance. What changed? What were the short-term and long-term consequences? Why does this matter?
- Draw conclusions based upon the historical evidence you have found.

Step 4: Create Your Project

- Start with a strong thesis statement.
- Explain what happened. Who, what, where, when, why, how?
- Discuss background, context, change over time, annual theme, and significance.
- Check the NHD Rule Book.
- Write your Process Paper & create a Title Page.
- Make your Annotated Bibliography.